age of majority is 18 and that is adopted, and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by our having the age at 21 whereas in British India they have fixed it at 18.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—There will be sufficient protection at least so far as Cochin is concerned.

President.—It is not an amendment. Anyhow, for the purpose of principle, it may be taken to be a non-controversial measure.

Motion put and agreed to.

President.—The Secretary will read the title of the Bill.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is "A Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code."

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I do not know whether the Law Member is going to request the President to dispense with the Standing Order so as to pass on to the further stage. Unless there is any urgency, because I find that this law was passed in British India in the year 1924 and we are now in 1929, I would request the Law Member not to press the thing all at once.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—In that case I do not want the President to suspend the rule.

President.—You do not want to take it into consideration all at once? Then let it be there at this stage.

Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest:—

(1) *Chalakkudi Potteries.*

President.—We will now proceed with the consideration of resolutions. The first resolution stands in the name of Mr. C. J. Mathew.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I move that "*This House recommends to the Government to appoint a Committee to inquire into the reasons for the present stand-still of the Chalakkudi Potteries and to suggest ways and means to run the same on up-to-date lines as a thorough-going Potteries concern.*"

Sir, the sad and most deplorable state into which our Chalakkudi Potteries has been reduced needs no comment at my hands. The original intention when the Potteries was started was not to confine its activities to the manufacture of minton tiles. Of course it is well and good to manufacture minton tiles, thus using part of the machinery at least for some profitable work unlike the Tanneries which stands completely useless. I congratulate the Chief Engineer for being able thus to utilise a part of machinery this way. But what about the 90 per cent of the remaining machinery which is remaining absolutely idle? I am told by the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies,

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who had the good fortune to be shown round the factory the other day, that this machinery is not only remaining idle but it is get ting rusty and not even properly looked after. Again, what about the huge building with its 3 floors, all staring at you? Sir, what we have to consider to-day is whether there are possibilities still in Chalakkudi to run a thorough-going Pottery factory in full swing. I understand from the report of Mr. Kuehnel, the first expert, that he found five different kinds of clay in Chalakkudi which can be profitably utilised to manufacture salt-glazed stone-ware, namely, jars, pipes and glazed wall tiles. And later Mr. Thampan also endorsed the same views and said that Chalakkudi clay would very profitably produce stone-ware, sanitary pipes, white jars and other appliances needed for electrical installations. Now when there are all these possibilities with the clay of Chalakkudi, I cannot imagine how these Potteries could turn out into a failure. Again in the matter of the manufacture of stone-ware, Mr. Thampan says two essential factors have to be reckoned with, namely, the cost of manual labour as well as the cost of fuel obtainable in the country. Mr. Thampan says one particular reason why Chalakkudi is best suited for the manufacture of pottery is that we could get fuel at a very low cost there, Rs. 5 a ton. He says such cheapness is practically unimaginable in any other country. Again with regard to manual labour, he says that, while 8 to 12 annas is paid to a cooly at Ernakulam or Trichur, he could get sufficient labour for his purpose in Chalakkudi at 5 to 6 annas. That is half the rate only of what is prevalent here or in Trichur. So with such cheap manual labour and with these facilities to get fuel from the forests in Chalakkudi at a very cheap rate and with the possibilities of the local clay to produce excellent stone-ware, I really cannot see why the Government should not wake up and settle to do something at once. Now it may be pointed out that the failure is due to getting down foreign experts, who did not take any keen interest in this concern. If that be so, it is time that some one amongst us be sent to Japan or so to get trained. They will take real interest and work out to success the possibilities of the State. On the other hand to say that we shall be satisfied with the manufacture of minton tiles, and minton tiles alone, even though it works with profit, is certainly no solution of this disgraceful failure in Chalakkudi. It will be also an economical solution of the unemployment problem among the coolies in Chalakkudi. It would mean employment to nearly 5 or 6 hundred people. Sir, under the circumstances, I request that a committee may be appointed at once to inquire into the real reasons for the failure of the Pottery. I consider it is mainly due to mis-management. It is certainly not too late

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to mend. Let us act in the living present. Awake ! Arise !! and never remain fallen.

President.—The resolution has to be seconded.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I second the resolution.

Although the Member for Chalakkudi had the misfortune to be turned out of the stone-ware factory, I congratulate myself that I was able to get into the factory and examine for myself the factory, the machines and the materials collected there. One will feel very sorry if a visit is made to the locality and it reminds the criminal folly of the administration to have sent away Mr. Kuehnnel at the very moment when he was about to begin his operations. If my information is correct, the mistake was made by the Government of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, when Mr. Kuehnnel was refused a short extension of two months ; then the whole thing would have been in working order, and we could have also trained some of our young men to work under him, and the whole factory would have been a successful concern. But Mr. Narayana Menon thought otherwise ; Mr Kuehnnel was sent away and then Mr. Balappa was employed for some time. Mr. Balappa did not attend to the manufacture of articles in the factory. He did not want to set the machinery in working. But he built buildings where all articles have to be collected for sale before the articles were manufactured. Mr. Balappa was also sent away because of some misunderstanding between the then Director of Industries and himself. Then we have the four years of administration under your regime when we find a policy of caution, I must say, inaction is the prevailing negative virtue. There is no life there. Of course, the present Chief Engineer tries to make an attempt to do something, but it is wide of the mark. The idea which was underlying the construction of the stone-ware factory in the first instance is entirely changed. It was never the original idea of the Government to manufacture mintontiles when the stone-ware factory was constructed. An amount very nearly five lakhs was spent, and decay has set in in the plants and the machinery. A portion of one of the chambers in the southern wing has already fallen, and I am sure the Chief Engineer will not deny that the plants and the machinery are not now utilised. At present, only at the most 6 chambers are lighted, and the man in charge is technically incompetent to work; he does not know how to utilise all the 18 chambers by continuous firing. There is some mechanical device they say, which is known to Mr. Kuehnnel alone. If his services alone can be made use of, I say the Government will not be losing in its prestige if he is again requisitioned and asked to start work. If not, the Government can get an expert and the whole factory may be set in motion. It is idle for the

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Government to have sat quiet for all these four years and to say we will begin the manufacture of mintontiles and forget the very purpose for which the factory was originally started.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Government never said that.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—That is what you do. You have forgotten why the stone-ware factory was constructed.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have not.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The factory was not constructed for the manufacture of mintontiles. You have not done anything for the last four years. You do not want a Member of this Council to go there and inspect the factory and offer suggestions. Is this to be the culmination of the factory, and was it started to achieve this state of affairs?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not quite understand how the Member for Chalakkudi was refused admission.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Last week I went there and then a clerk or somebody said I cannot be shown round unless I get special sanction to do so.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—From whom? Did you write to the fore-man, the man in charge?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—No.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—You ought to have written like that. You should have written to the fore-man or to me.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—That is why I did not mention it here.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is quite wrong for the Member for Jenmies to utter such a word here when it is all his mistake. We are not to be blamed for it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I also rise to support the view that something must be done with the Potteries, and I think it would be advisable to let the House know that the Government is also moving in the matter. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kuehnnel when he was here and some difference that took place between Mr. Kuehnnel and the then man in charge of the Government, whoever may be in charge of the policy of the Government, some differences arose and Mr. Kuehnnel had to separate or was made to separate. Several questions have been asked in this House and they have been answered and they must be fresh to all Members but certainly to those who had sat in the last Council. Of course, we know that the Government spent a lot of money in getting Mr. Dunk down to inspect it, and Mr. Dunk gave certain information that the Pottery expert would come down. In the end, it was found that those Pottery experts

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could not come down. Now, Sir, it tantamounts to reason to see that you must, to develop these ceramic works, look to persons within India itself. If you look for the uplift of this work to foreign experts, or European experts, I say you will look in vain for a long time to come. It is not to their advantage to develop these industries in this country, and I make bold to say that every means, fair or foul, would be adopted to see such industries do not spring up in this country. Whatever may be the contradiction, and always pretensions are one way and actualities the other way in this country, I make bold to say that every effort will be made to strangle these industries. Mr. Kuehnnel, we paid him liberally and what happened? He would not let anybody inside the factory to go into the experimental rooms for fear of letting out his secrets. Now in the same way there are so many other charges like that. Persons are finding their way into these surreptitious methods and learning the secrets of these industries.

They are not prepared to encourage full tanned leather, and that was the difficulty which we experienced there. Not that our expert was not able to turn out these things, but there are bigger forces which are known to us, that do work against these things.

During my last visit to the Congress at Calcutta, I came across with an Engineer who has started Potteries successfully at Behar and he has run several factories and is a managing agent and I have given the information to the Government. And the Government has also accepted this suggestion. I think we would, therefore, if it is acceptable to the mover of the resolution, wait till his visit. When he comes, the Government and some of us, who are or may also be interested in the Potteries, can go to the Potteries and have a thorough inspection. He is a proper ceramic Engineer, Mr. Deb, who is running the Behar Potteries.

President.—What is his name, Mr. Salem?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Mr. Deb, Sir. I know that the Government at Patna have even entrusted new works to him. It was only by accident that I came across with this gentleman and now his suggestion is before the Government. We are all anxious to see that this Potteries is well established. I, therefore, think that it is advisable for the Hon'ble Member to wait till an investigation is thoroughly made. Something certainly can be done in the Potteries. There is no doubt about that. From the descriptions that have been submitted, and with the materials that are available, I think that we can do a good deal by our efforts. There is no doubt we have got facilities, and if the Government is attempting to do everything in the matter, I say we can develop the Potteries.

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Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Has he been requested to go over here?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have written to him.

President.—I don't know how this committee will be able to help us. That also has to be done by experts. Only experts can help us in this matter.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This gentleman is prepared to find good working material.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Is he an expert?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I met him in Calcutta and then he was managing the Calcutta Potteries belonging to the Maharaja of Cossimbazaar.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This man has done many things there.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know the Government view about the matter?

President.—We have asked him his terms but we have not received his reply.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have written to him to let me know his terms.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Unless his term is prohibitive you are sure to get him.

President.—Mr. Salem, you said you have got a letter from him.

(*Mr. A. B. Salem read a letter from Mr. Deb.*)

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Is he a Bengali?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I think he is a Bengali.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He is a man of about 60 years of age well seasoned in business.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I don't think that his age is a qualification.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If there is a serious attempt made to get down an expert to see whether it can be brought to order, it will be well and good.

President.—I suppose we may get a reply since we have written to him.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If such an attempt is made, I don't think that my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Chalakkudi, will press his motion.

President.—Do you know how the committee proposed will serve the purpose?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—However intricate the subject-matter of the committee may be, you will find, Sir, that a large number of civilian committees were appointed even to discuss matters relating to wars, for example, the Cardinal expedition and the Mesopotamian expedition.

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President.—Cardinal expedition is a quite different matter. Civilians are only authorised to examine the military experts.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—An expert committee is the one that is wanted.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What happened in the case of Tanneries?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— In all technical schemes, in America, for example, the protection of the Mississippi river, it was done by an expert committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But it is impossible to have experts.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Supossing the persons of the committee are experts too.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If you want to achieve best results, you should have experts.

Mr.C. J. Mathew.—All that I want is a committee of experts.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are already corresponding with one man and let us get his advice.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Of course the technical part must be left to the expert. If you fail, it is your fate.

President.—Do you wish to have a full discussion on the resolution?

Mr. C J. Mathew.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. V. K Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I rise to oppose the resolution. I sometimes consider that I am often asked and made responsible to look after concerns which do not present an easy or successful career. This factory was first conceived during the Diwanship of Mr. Bhore after His Highness' first Northern Indian tour to attend the Princes' Conference in Delhi. While in Calcutta His Highness and the Diwan visited the Pottery Works of the Maharaja of Cossimbazaar. I was one of the party. The successful operations of that factory made a great impression on the Diwan, and I have heard him often remark on the possibilities of exploiting the mineral resources of the State. Shortly afterwards, one Mr. Thampan, a man of considerable ability and commercial instinct, was selected by the Government to undergo a special course in Ceramics in Bombay. As soon as his course was finished, he was established in Chalakkudi to seriously tackle the problem of constructing a Pottery works. Though, as I have said before, Mr. Thampan was a very clever and resourceful man, it was thought by the Government that a European expert should be called in to advise on this question. Accordingly Mr. Kuehnel, a man from Czecho-Slovakia, was invited for the purpose. True to tradition, this expert condemned Mr. Thampan's schemes in all its details and

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Mr. Thampan was asked to work under Mr. Kuehennel as his assistant. Naturally Mr. Thampan resigned and Mr. Kuehennel was placed in full charge of the operations. Mr. Kuehennel revised all the plans originally made, constructed his continuous kiln, and he equipped the building with the necessary machinery. To the credit of the Government it must be said that they gave him all facilities and did not interfere with his plans in any manner whatsoever. The first time that we had to seriously consider the performance of Mr. Kuehennel was when he started breaking his promises. His estimates were largely exceeded, and the works were not completed as per his forecaste. Extensions were granted very liberally to him, and still he was not able to produce results. These extensions were so numerous that it was apparent that Mr. Kuehennel will not be able to fulfil his promises. The Government, therefore, had to send him away and think of other plans. And then a person with a fair degree of training in England was given an opportunity to work it. This was Mr. Balappa from Mysore. He inspected the factory and, as I have said before, true to tradition, condemned Mr. Kuehennel's plans. He said that stone-ware pipes, which item was supposed to be the main article of manufacture in the factory, cannot be made properly in a continuous kiln. That being so, he directed his efforts towards jars and other clay products. He advised purchase of additional machinery which was done. But he also failed to produce results even after numerous extensions. The Government then thought it necessary to terminate his services and keep the work going on, on a less expensive scale looking forward to securing services of proper persons or leasing out the factory. As it was very difficult to get either of these agencies, the Government transferred the management of the Potteries under me with instructions to do the best I can in the matter. For the last three years I was in charge of the factory. I was all this time directing experiments to be conducted in the factory on a small scale, while I was also considering the question of securing expert opinion on the matter. The main defect in the factory was the impossibility to secure uniform high temperature in the kilns. This was a matter which from my experience and training I was confident I could solve and, therefore, I set about it very carefully. The failure of the previous attempts had shaken the faith of the Government on the factory so much that I found it difficult to forward propositions in this connection which had a reasonable chance of acceptance by them. And the cost of these experiments was so large that I had to work under further disabilities. To give an idea of the expenditure involved, it may be stated that to fire a kiln once, an expenditure of about eight

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hundred rupees is necessary for the cost of fuel alone, not to speak of the cost of manufacturing articles to fill the chambers—all these for trying whether certain alterations in the dimensions of the flue passages or the method of arranging materials in a certain manner in the chambers will secure the desired results. The uncertain quantities were so many, e. g., the temperature in the kiln, the duration of that temperature, the dimensions of the passages for exhaust gases and location, the oxidising or reducing effects of the gases, the body of the materials and the suitability of the glazes to the bodies experimented upon are to speak of a few of these uncertain quantities in our equation. And experiments have to be conducted one by one so that the effect of each alteration may be known definitely. We were working on these slowly for the last three years. You will see, therefore, how difficult and how complicated these technical points are, and I hope you will appreciate that such experiments will take time. Thanks to these efforts, we have now reached a stage when we can reasonably claim mastery over the kiln in regard to the regulation of uniform temperature in the chambers and to the manufacture of fire-bricks and high class floorings. We have also recently achieved satisfactory results in the manufacture of stone-ware pipes, and we are now in a position to manufacture these articles on a fairly commercial scale.

You will see, therefore, that we have made definite, satisfactory and steady progress in regard to this concern. Judging from the profit and loss accounts, we may not have done much; though for the last two years we have been successful to keep the factory going not only without loss but with some definite profit. If the same policy is pursued, I have reason to hope that we shall be able to start manufacture on a larger scale with increased profits. It is time for us now to look for markets, and we are endeavouring to appoint agents in the different localities in India for the distribution of our profits. I claim that no one can dispute that the Government have done all that was wise in the management of a concern of this nature, and if anyone should contradict this statement, I would ask him to describe what else we could have done.

I have been hearing criticisms on the Potteries from the various Members of this and the previous Council. But I have yet to find a useful suggestion in any one of them. Most of these criticisms were made in an irresponsible manner, judging simply from the profit and loss accounts, ignoring completely that a highly technical concern of this character cannot bring forth results without patiently conducting experiments through a fairly reasonable length of time. Somebody suggested that this may be converted into a tile factory or closed altogether. Probably

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we would have been able to make some profits if run on those lines. But I seriously object to such a transformation as it will amount to competing with private capital utilising public money. To run a commercial concern out of public funds is a very wrong thing to do as the competition which is set up thereby must muffle the private companies. (*Hear, hear.*) I am positively of opinion that the Government should not enter into any commercial undertaking which infringes on a field already tapped or extremely likely to be tapped by private capital. It is the duty of the Government to govern and not to trade. If our Government requires more funds, it is certainly not to acquire it by starting tile factory or rice mills. I, therefore, think that, if the Government should have anything to do with this concern, it should be run as a stone-ware or ceramic or cement factory or not at all.

Having now given you an idea of the nature of the work to be done and that is being done in the factory, I shall deal with the question of the appointment of a committee.

I may say now that the Government are now considering the question of bringing down another expert for his opinion. We are also making all arrangements for starting the manufacture and marketing of fire-bricks and flooring. A committee of the nature contemplated in the resolution will only, in my opinion, interfere with our programme evolved from experience and seriously retard the already belated progress of the concern. If this committee is appointed, I can only say that it is unfortunate that this situation also arose contributing to the other factors which affected the concern adversely.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—We never had a committee up to this time. You cannot put down the blame on the committee.

President.—That is the Government position, Mr. Mathew. Of course it is left to you to consider. Do you still press for the appointment of a committee?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Were the buildings and materials examined by Mr. Krishnan Nayar, the ex-Chief Engineer? I am told there is a report from Mr. Krishnan Nayar.

President.—Was there a valuation prepared by Mr. Krishnan Nayar?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Of course much was done by the Government enthusiastically.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The mistake was in selecting the expert.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Does the Chief Engineer say that something will be done if he fails to get the services of the expert?

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Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—What can a committee do? You suggest a committee of experts. How can there be a committee of experts when it is difficult even to get the services of one expert to investigate and submit a report? It is useless.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Anyhow we shall try whether we can get this expert.

President.—We shall try this gentleman

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Does the Hon'ble Member think that everything will be done by appointing a committee?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—With the leave of the House, I withdraw the resolution.

President.—The question before the House is whether Mr. Mathew has got the leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Question put and agreed to and resolution withdrawn with leave.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

2. Social Functions.

Deputy President.—The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. Salem.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that, in all public social functions given by the Government, all Members of this Council be accorded an equal status as Official Members of this Council are accorded by virtue of their Government appointments.*" I don't wish to move that.

Hence it was considered withdrawn.

3. The Cochin State Manual.

Deputy President.—The next one stands in the name of Mr. Barton Wright.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that steps may be taken to revise the Cochin State Manual, and that the work of revision be entrusted to Messrs. T. K. Krishna Menon, Member, University Board in Malayalam, S. F. Nunez, M. A., Member, University Board in History and C. Achyuta Menon, B. A. the author.*" I don't wish to move.

Hence the resolution as well as the following amendments were considered withdrawn.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—"*Omit all the words beginning with 'Messrs. ..... and ending with 'History and' and substitute 'Mr'.*"

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*Omit the latter portion of the resolution beginning with "to Messrs.* etc., ... *' and in its stead*

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